

Mr. Speaker, more than three decades have passed since Bum Phillips strolled the sidelines of the Astrodome as the head coach of the Oilers and the beloved leader of "Luv Ya Blue!" Nation, but he will always be remembered as the man who put the Oilers on the map and embodied the spirit and civic pride of Houston, the greatest city in the greatest country in the only world we know.

Mr. Speaker, I ask for a moment of silence in memory of Oail Andrew "Bum" Phillips.

Luv Ya Blue!

RECOGNIZING THE VILLAGE OF WILLIAMSVILLE'S PICTURE MAIN STREET PROJECT

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 28, 2013

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Village of Williamsville: Picture Main Street Project as the Amherst Chamber of Commerce's choice for the Revitalization Award for their 2013 Business of the Year Awards for their efforts to transform the main commercial strip of the Village of Williamsville into a more vibrant and vital urban village core.

Through the process of placemaking, the village of Williamsville initiated a citizen-driven effort to create a vision for what Main Street should be and to create a plan to make that vision a reality. More than 36,000 vehicles travel down Main Street each day, and residents and businesses identified the lack of a pedestrian environment as a detriment to both commerce and the viability of the future of the village.

The Community Plan was devised in 2005 which identified a solution to the traffic problems on Main Street. Picture Main Street directly addressed those issues by seeking to make the state road more equitable for both drivers and pedestrians. The plan called for numerous improvements to make the shopping district more accessible to pedestrians which include \$7,000,000 streetscape enhancements, aggressive tree planting, bulb-outs, a mid-block signal for pedestrians, lighting, gateways, pocket parks, and even a smartphone application or valet parking in the village. Changes could also result in the creation a "village-square" or second shopping district around the Historic Williamsville Water Mill.

Although pending approval by the state, the changes are set to go into effect next spring. Within the waiting period, thousands of residents took part in "taking back Main Street," an old-fashioned block party that closed the thoroughfare to traffic and invited residents out onto the street.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to recognize the Village of Williamsville: Picture Main Street Project's effort to revitalize the Village of Williamsville. Their innovation and determination are not only admirable and deserving of such praise, but an incredible asset to the future success of Western New York. I congratulate the Village of Williamsville: Picture Main Street Project as the recipient of the Revitalization Award for the Amherst Chamber of Commerce's 2013 Business of the Year Awards.

IN SUPPORT OF UKRAINE'S EUROPEAN ASPIRATIONS

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 28, 2013

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, as Ranking Member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, and Emerging Threats, I rise along with the co-chairs of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus, Representatives KAPTUR, LEVIN, and GERLACH, to voice my support for Ukraine's European aspirations.

As long-time advocates for the democratization and economic liberalization of Ukraine, we welcome the progress that has been made to date and encourage Ukraine's continued efforts in the coming weeks to realize the final steps necessary to enter into an Association Agreement with the European Union (EU) at the Eastern Partnership Summit in Vilnius this November.

By strengthening Ukraine's bilateral relationship with the EU, we are confident that through greater economic integration and political cooperation, Ukraine will be able to achieve a stronger relationship with current EU Member States, as well as transatlantic partners, such as the United States, through a shared respect for democratic principles, rule of law, good governance, human rights, and essential freedoms. As such, we believe that the signing of an Association Agreement between Ukraine and the EU will continue to serve as a catalyst for democratic and human rights reforms, enhanced economic development, and improved welfare for all Ukrainians.

Over the last year, we have observed with interest Ukraine's efforts to meet the EU's conditions for this agreement, and as the Eastern Partnership Summit in Vilnius draws near, we wish to encourage all parties to continue to cooperate and work swiftly to complete all remaining reforms, in law and in practice.

Recognizing that key progress has been made in certain areas, including the enactment of a new criminal procedure code, we support further tangible action by Ukraine to address critical issues and incorporate the reforms necessary to improve its electoral system, governing institutions, and its system of justice. In particular, we believe that a crucial step towards such reform would be the pardon and release of former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko under mutually acceptable terms.

The signing of an Association Agreement with the EU marks a significant opportunity for Ukraine to fulfill its commitments to democracy and human rights and is in the strategic interests of Ukraine, the EU, and the United States. We offer our support and encouragement to Ukraine in the coming weeks as it takes the final steps towards a stronger and enhanced relationship with the EU.

MONICA BARLETTA

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 28, 2013

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Monica Barletta, longtime parishioner of the

Holy Rosary Church in Hazleton, Pennsylvania.

Monica Barletta has been a member of the Holy Rosary Church for over 70 years, joining in 1943 to receive her First Communion. She and her late husband Fred Barletta Sr. have been instrumental in every major project undertaken by Holy Rosary Parish. Mrs. Barletta has been a member and officer of the Christian Woman's Society for over 50 years, and has served as a lector for nearly 25 years. Additionally, she was an active member of the committee which initiated the annual Holy Rosary Bazaar in 1978 and she held the position of Bazaar chairperson. She was one of the founders of the church's annual Mother's Day Carnation Sales that support the Pennsylvanians for Human Life organization, an effort which has raised tens of thousands of dollars for the local pro-life movement over the past 30 years. She is also currently a member of the Holy Rosary Parish Council.

Mr. Speaker, for her dedicated work at the Holy Rosary Church in Hazleton, Pennsylvania, I commend Monica Barletta.

RECOGNIZING COL. PAULETTE SCHANK

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 28, 2013

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a career dedicated to service to our country. After more than two decades of service, Colonel Paulette Schank will be retiring from her command, but her service and commitment to others will not soon be forgotten. Colonel Schank, a Bucks County resident, is the Commander of the 514th AMDS, Aerospace Medicine Squadron based out of Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey. Her detachment provides medical support for over 2,600 Airmen, ensuring their medical readiness to meet mission requirements both state-side and abroad.

As both a civilian nurse-anesthetist at Saint Mary Medical Center in Langhorne and an Air Force reserve officer, Colonel Schank has dedicated her life to caring for others—be it in Bucks County or around the world. During her tenure with the Air Force she has provided medical assistance in times of war and in humanitarian efforts—from Iraq to Haiti, Mozambique to Peru.

Colonel Schank is a vital part of my Veterans Advisory Board and a trusted consultant when it comes to pursuing legislation that benefits my district's veterans and military members.

On behalf of a grateful community, a grateful nation, and a grateful world I thank Colonel Paulette Schank for her service and wish her the best in her retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 28, 2013

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, on October 23, 2013, I was unavoidably absent and missed